

MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DATA
New Hampshire, August 2002
B G McKay

Seasonally Adjusted. Employment in New Hampshire dropped by 1,700 jobs in preliminary estimates for August. The manufacturing industrial division led the decliners with a 2,200-job loss. The trade industrial division added 400 jobs to the employment woes. To complete August's downward trend, the transportation and public utilities industrial division cut 100 workers from its force.

Not all trends in the August seasonally adjusted estimates were negative. The construction industrial division expanded its ranks by 600 jobs. Services added 400 workers to its staff, and finance, insurance, and real estate augmented its work force with 300 added jobs.

Unadjusted. The unadjusted estimates for August had the trend line dipping by 1,800 jobs. The trade and manufacturing industrial division each dropped 1,000 jobs during the month. To complete the slide, government employment was down by 800 jobs.

Those loses were offset somewhat by the construction and services industrial divisions each bringing 400 workers on board during the month. Finance, insurance, and real estate added 200 jobs to its roster.

Mining and transportation and public utilities held their respective employment levels steady at the July mark.

CONSTRUCTION

Seasonally Adjusted. August's 600-job increase in the seasonally adjusted estimates can be largely credited to special trades contractors (SIC 17) adding 500 workers. General building contractors (SIC 15) chipped in 100 jobs to bring the total increase up to 600 jobs.

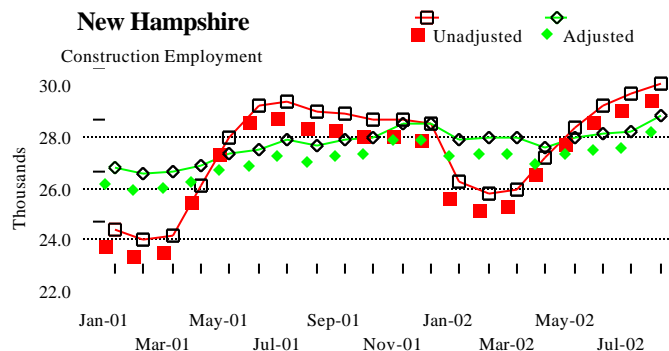
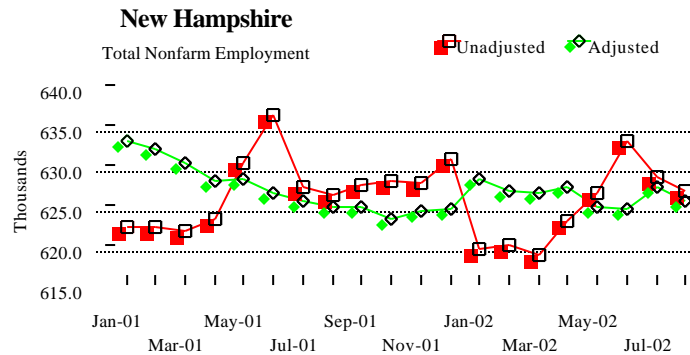
Heavy construction contractors (SIC 16) sustained the July employment levels.

Unadjusted. August preliminary employment estimates showed that the construction industrial division added 400 jobs to its ranks. In this data series, special trades contractors (SIC 17) increased their employment level by 300 jobs, and heavy constructions contractors (SIC 16) added 100 jobs.

The unadjusted estimates for August had general building contractors (SIC 15) holding at the July level.

MANUFACTURING

Seasonally Adjusted. Seasonally adjusted estimates for the manufacturing industrial division showed a 2,200-job decline in August. The durable goods manufacturing subdivision was responsible for 1,900 of those 2,200 jobs. Of the published industries in the durable goods manufacturing subdivision, only two industries experienced a shift in employment level. Electronic and other electrical equipment (SIC 36) employment suffered a 600-job fall in August, and fabricated metal products (SIC 34) trimmed 200 jobs from its rolls.



The good news to be taken from August's seasonally adjusted estimates is that the remaining published industries in durable goods did not reduce July's employment level going into August.

Nondurable goods manufacturing endured a 300-job loss in August. Both published industries posted decreases for the month. Rubber and miscellaneous plastic products (SIC 30) had 200 fewer workers on the job in August, and leather and leather products' (SIC 31) work force was diminished by 100 jobs.

Unadjusted. This data series, like its seasonally adjusted counterpart, also showed a significant decline in employment levels for the manufacturing industrial division. Overall, the division lost 1,000 jobs.

Durable goods manufacturing fell by 1,100 jobs in August. The estimates indicated that the job loss was evenly disbursed throughout all of the published industries. Lumber, wood, and furniture (SICs 24 and 25) and electronic and other electrical equipment (SIC 36) each cut back on their labor pools by 300 jobs.

The August bright spot in durable goods manufacturing was stone, clay, and glass products (SIC 32). This industry kept its employment at the July level.

The remaining published industries in the subdivision found it necessary to make minor reductions in force as each pruned 100 jobs from their respective payrolls.

Nondurable goods manufacturing went against the prevailing trend when it expanded the subdivision's employment total by 100 jobs. In reviewing the published industries in this subdivision, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products (SIC 30) dropped 100-jobs, while textile mill and apparel products (SICs 22 and 23) took on 300 additional workers.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

Seasonally Adjusted. August estimates showed that employment in this industrial division declined by 100 jobs, which represents the grand total of activity for this industrial division.

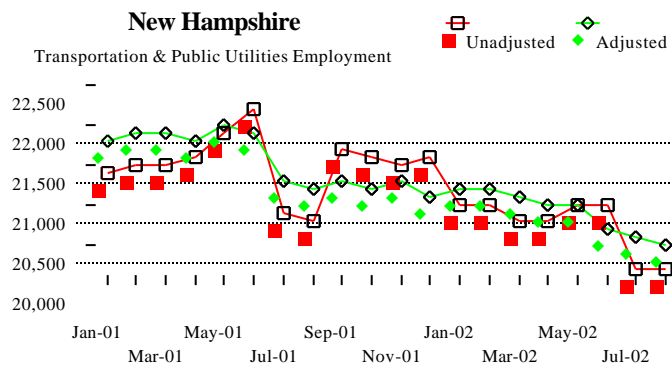
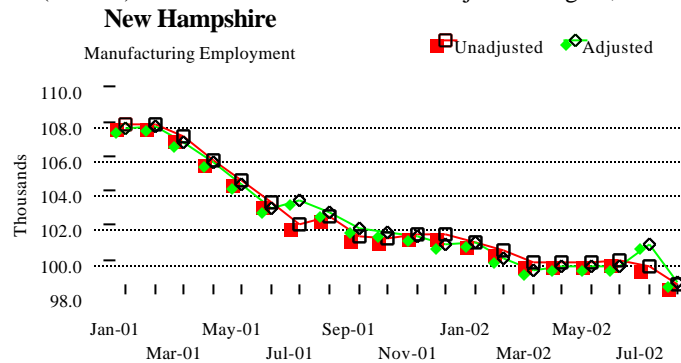
Unadjusted. In terms of employment activity, August is a benign month for this industrial division as substantiated by the preliminary estimates in this category. There was no overall change employment from the July posting at the division level or at the two major subdivision levels – (1) transportation and (2) communication and utilities.

TRADE

Seasonally Adjusted. The seasonally adjusted line on the chart has a gradual downward slope to it for the past five months, which included a 400-job decrease in August. Looking inside August's estimates, we see that wholesale trade employment increased by 100 jobs, while retail trade incurred an overall 500-job reduction.

The publishable seasonally adjusted retail trade industries showed that general merchandise stores (SIC 53) took a 200-job hit, which was offset by a 200-job increase in food stores (SIC 54). Furniture, home furnishings and equipment stores (SIC 57) added 100 jobs to their work force.

Eating and drinking establishments' (SIC 58) employment held at the level set in the previous month.



Unadjusted Employment estimates in this data series took their traditional drop in August, as there were 1,000 fewer jobs in this industrial division. Wholesale trade employment fell by 100 jobs, and retail trade absorbed a 900-job decline. August drop in employment signaled that the end of another holiday season was near. Students brought on board as summer hires dropped out of the work force to take vacation before returning to school.

Eating and drinking establishments (SIC 58) was the major contributor to the August decline with its 700-loss. General merchandise stores (SIC 53) employment decreased by 200 jobs.

August estimates showed that food stores (SIC 54) added 200 jobs to the payrolls, as automotive dealers and service stations (SIC 55) and furniture, home furnishings and equipment stores (SIC 57) had no over-the-month change in their respective levels of employment.

FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE

Seasonally Adjusted. The finance, insurance, and real estate industrial division added 300 jobs to its payroll according to preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for August. Because this division is adjusted at the division level, it is necessary to look at the unadjusted estimates to gain an insight into the movement of this trend line.

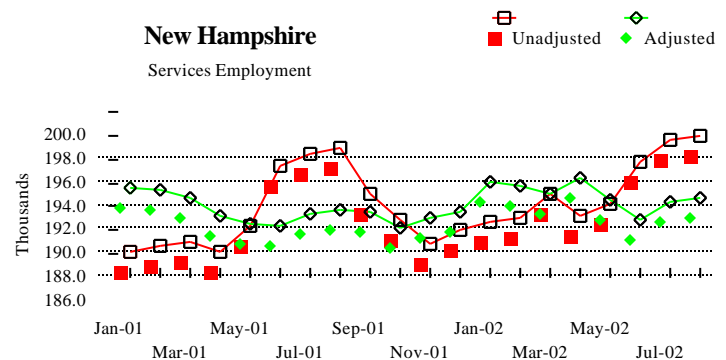
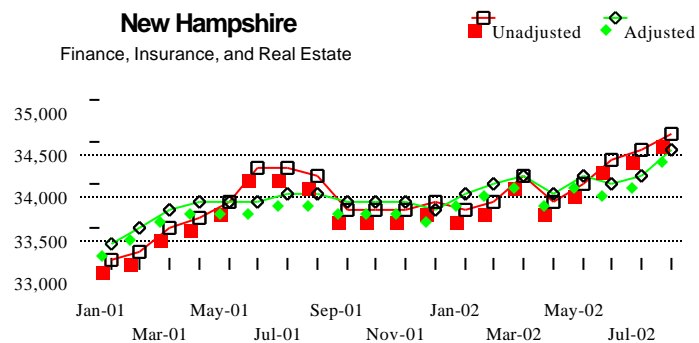
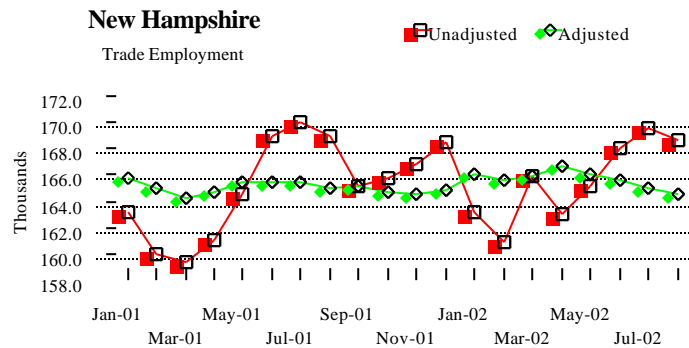
Unadjusted August unadjusted estimates showed a modest increase in employment for finance, insurance, and real estate industrial division. Overall, the division expanded its ranks by 200 jobs, of which, the insurance industries (SICs 63 and 64) contributed 100 jobs. A review of the sample suggested that this growth was distributed evenly all industries within the division.

SERVICES

Seasonally Adjusted. The services industrial division enlarged its roster by 400 jobs according to seasonally adjusted estimates.

The two publishable industries within the division showed that hotels and other lodging places (SIC 70) maintained its employment at the July level, and business services (SIC 73) dropped 200 jobs.

Unadjusted As with other divisions, August is a month of relative tranquility in terms of employment shifts. The month is the final part of the summer vacation period. Unadjusted August estimates also indicated that the services industrial division grew by 400 jobs, which represented a 0.6% growth.



Hotels and other lodging places (SIC 70) and health services (SIC 80) each added 100 members to their respective staffs in August. Hospitals (SIC 806) appears to be solely responsible for health services' increase.

The remaining published industry, business services (SIC 73), experienced a 100-job cutback in personnel strength.

GOVERNMENT

Seasonally Adjusted. Employment in the government sector contracted by 300 jobs in August preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates. State government expanded its ranks by 100 jobs, while local governments pared 400 jobs from the rolls. Federal government employment levels remained unchanged in over-the-month activity.

Unadjusted We saw total government employment shrink by 800 jobs in the first edition of August's unadjusted estimates.

As in the other data series for this industrial division, federal government employment was unchanged.

State government had 200 fewer employees on the job in August. Our sample suggested that this reduction could be found primarily in the area of education services. The university system closed the books on another school year.

Educational services at the local government level soaked up a slight majority of August's 600-job loss for this echelon. Other local government activities trimmed 200 workers from their active rosters. It is the time of year that we see municipalities starting to reduce their parks and recreation staffs.

